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U.S. Farmers' Views

On
Agricultural
And Food
Policy



A Seventeen-State
Composite Report

North Central Regional
Extension Publication 227

North Central Regional
Research Publication 300

Contributing Authors

This report was made possible through the cooperative efforts of agricultural economists in 17 states. Many contributed ideas for the questions asked. In each state, one or more agricultural economists supervised the sampling, the questionnaire distribution, and the editing, processing, and reporting of the data from which this composite report was assembled. The persons contributing to the research in the participating states were:

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Introduction

The prospect for new agricultural and food legislation in 1985 is stimulating extensive debate about the issues to be addressed. A number of conferences have been held to consider the issues. Hearings by Congressional committees and listening sessions called by the Secretary of Agriculture have provided numerous opportunities for the leaders of farm, agribusiness, and consumer organizations to express their views. But what about farm producers who do not serve as officers or board members of these organizations? Have their views been heard?

To learn more about the opinions of individual farmers, a survey was conducted in 17 states representing all regions of the nation. The study was a cooperative effort carried out by many people who believed that opinions of representative groups of farmers could contribute to the educational and policy-making process.

The results of the study are of potential value to many different groups. Policy educators can more fully carry out their responsibilities when they know how farmers view specific issues. Farm and commodity organization leaders can learn whether their resolutions and policy positions align with the views of a scientifically drawn sample of all farmers. Agribusiness leaders and citizen groups can also benefit from knowledge of farmers' views on the major issues. Policy makers in Congress and the executive branch of the federal government can use the information to determine whether a consensus exists on specific policy issues.

Policy research workers in the participating states cooperated in developing a uniform questionnaire so that they could accurately identify similarities and differences of opinion

across state lines and among regions of the country. Questions selected for the survey centered on the major issues that agricultural policymakers will face in 1985: policies on price and income support, credit, trade, food assistance, program costs, and fiscal matters as they affect agriculture.

After the questionnaire was developed, each participating state carried out its own portion of the survey independently. In all states except Texas, samples were drawn by or with the assistance of the state crop reporting service to attain a representative sample of the state's farmers. In Texas, a representative sample was selected by agricultural economists at Texas A&M University. The questionnaires were mailed from March through June 1984. The size of sample, number of responses, and percentage return are shown in Table 1. A total of 8,085 farmers responded.

The response rate varied from state to state. No effort was made to sample nonrespondents to determine whether their views differed from those who did respond. However, the participating researchers' previous experience with similar telephone and personal interviews sug-

gests that the responses reported here are very likely to be representative. These findings are reported as representing the views not of all U.S. farmers but only of those in the participating states. The responses are likely to be less representative in those states where the response rate was lower.

Tables showing responses to each question by state are presented after the text (page 15). A copy of the questionnaire is reproduced on pages 41 through 44. References are made in the text to the appropriate table numbers and to the numbered questions in the questionnaire. In most states, responses were tabulated by size and type of farm. Significant differences in the responses of farmers with different farm sizes or types of operations are noted in the text. The response percentages given in the tables have been rounded to whole numbers and therefore may not total 100 percent in every category.

The 17 states in which the survey was conducted represented 50 percent of all U.S. cash receipts from farming in 1982, and they included 49.6 percent of all farms in the nation. These states marketed 58 per-

Some Terms Used in this Report

Target prices. Prices established by law for certain crops. If the market price does not equal the target price, qualifying farmers receive a **deficiency payment** to make up the difference.

Loan rate. The rate (in dollars per unit of product) used in determining the amount of money that the government will lend to enable farmers to hold their product for later sale. The loans are available only to qualifying farmers for eligible crops.

Payment-in-Kind program (PIK). The program widely used in 1983 that provided commodities to farmers as payment for reducing their acreage of certain crops.

cent of the meat animals, 50 percent of the dairy products, 51 percent of the food grains, 67 percent of the feed crops, 51 percent of the oilseed crops, and 34 percent of the cotton sold in the United States.

Surveys were also conducted in at least two other states in 1983 and 1984 to solicit farmers' views on agricultural and food issues. At the University of Missouri, agricultural economists surveyed farm leaders and young farmers. Rural sociologists conducted a survey on farm policy issues through the Missouri Farm and Rural Life Poll.^{1,2,3} In Iowa, a portion of the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll in the fall of 1983 and spring of 1984 was devoted to agricultural policy issues⁴.

¹ Harold F. Breimyer and Meredith M. Burks, "Opinions of Leading Missouri Farmers About Farm Policy, 1983," *Economic and Marketing Information for Missouri Agriculture* 26:7 (July 1983), Department of Agricultural Economics, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Missouri, Columbia.

² "Young Family Farmers' Opinions on Farm Policy," *Economic and Marketing Information for Missouri Agriculture* 26:9 (September 1983).

³ "Farm Issues and Policy Concerns: Highlights of Agricultural Issues," Department of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1983 (mimeo).

⁴ Paul Lasley, *Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, Summary, Fall 1983, November 1983, Summary, Spring 1984, June 1984*, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University, Ames.

States Participating in the Survey



Summary

The 8,085 farmers in 17 states who responded to the questionnaire expressed a wide range of views on agricultural and food issues.

One group of questions dealt with price and income support programs. Respondents' opinions were divided on the direction that commodity programs should take, but they generally agreed on the instruments to carry out these policies. Although they did not agree on whether acreage reduction programs should be voluntary or mandatory, producers in 12 of the 17 states more frequently preferred voluntary programs. Mandatory programs were more popular in the wheat-producing Great Plains states from Nebraska to Texas. Reestablishing acreage allotments and marketing quotas, another form of mandatory program, was not a popular alternative.

Although sentiment for completely eliminating set-aside, price-support, and government storage programs was expressed by some producers, they were far from a majority. They made up a large enough group, however, that if they joined forces with those who supported voluntary programs, they could block efforts to set up any mandatory acreage reduction programs requiring approval by a two-thirds majority of farmers.

Responses to questions about specific program instruments showed that a majority of those surveyed were in favor of continuing target prices and deficiency payments. Respondents were divided in their opinions on the level at which target prices should be set, but the sentiment in a majority of the states was to keep them about the same rather than increase or decrease them. Opinions also varied on whether acreage diversion payments should be continued, but in a majority of the states more farmers preferred that they be continued than wanted them abandoned.

A majority favored continuing the farmer-owned reserve and would prefer that a limit be set on the amount placed in the reserve based on a percentage of the previous year's use.

Although not a majority in every state, more farmers agreed than disagreed with a proposal to set loan rates for price-supported commodities at a percentage of the 3-to-5-year average market price.

Respondents were also divided in their views on the future use of the payment-in-kind (PIK) program if large stocks should appear. In 11 states, more favored than opposed its use.

More respondents in 15 states agreed than disagreed that future farm programs should be changed to give the most benefits to smaller farms with annual gross sales of less than \$40,000.

Opinions were divided on payment limitations, but respondents seemed to prefer making no change in the \$50,000 limit on direct payments. If major program changes are required, more farmers would prefer a low "safety-net" loan and target-price program than would prefer a shift to some form of farm income insurance.

A strong majority of the respondents believed that to qualify for price support a farmer should be required to follow approved soil conservation measures. A majority also favored giving more funds to those states with the most severe erosion problems.

Respondents were divided in their views on whether dairy farmers should be paid to cut production if milk output is still excessive in 1985.

More seemed to oppose continuation of the program than to support it. Although the sample of dairy farmers responding was small, their responses suggested that the milk incentive program in effect during 1984 and early 1985 is not likely to result in any large change in cow numbers.

The most preferred policy for dealing with natural disasters was to continue the present federal all-risk crop insurance program. Some farmers would prefer to return to government-funded disaster payments or to eliminate all disaster payment and crop insurance programs, but in most states they were in a minority. Judging from the number of respondents who said they had no opinion or did not respond, farmers are not well informed about federal crop insurance. About half or more either had no opinion or did not respond to a question on the value of crop insurance, the extent of coverage, and whether the program is easy to understand. Among those who expressed an opinion, the most frequent reply was that the program is expensive, that coverage is inadequate, and that it is difficult to understand.

Asked about the credit policy for Farmers Home Administration borrowers, respondents favored continuing the present policy of not foreclosing until all repayment efforts have failed. A small proportion of the respondents favored a moratorium on all foreclosures, a moratorium for selected young farmers, or a stricter policy on delinquent loans.

Respondents were sharply divided on the issue of who should make

major farm commodity policy decisions. The most frequent response in 14 states was to let producers organize, control, and finance their own programs. An independent board or commission representing producers, agribusinesses, and consumers and acting under Congressional guidelines was attractive to about one-fourth of the respondents. About one in four preferred to continue the present system in which Congress writes and the Secretary of Agriculture and the executive branch implement commodity program legislation. The division of opinion on this issue indicated some dissatisfaction with the present decision-making system.

The food stamp program was not popular with producers. Most respondents would prefer to keep food stamp expenditures about the same, decrease them, or eliminate them completely. Only a few favored increasing expenditures.

Respondents strongly supported increasing agricultural exports. They were in less agreement, however, about how to do it. In general, farmers agreed with these policies:

- Matching export subsidies of our competitors
- Encouraging lower trade barriers by major importers of our agricultural products
- Promoting bilateral trade agreements
- Providing more funds for food aid
- Strengthening the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- Expanding farmer-financed market development programs.

In contrast, respondents' views were divided on these policies for increasing exports:

- Lowering U.S. support prices
- Establishing a marketing board
- Joining an export cartel with other exporting countries
- Setting up a two-price plan with higher prices in the domestic market than in the export market.

Farmers were concerned about the economic consequences of large federal deficits. About four out of five respondents wanted to reduce the deficit to decrease interest rates. In addition, more than three-fourths favored reducing the deficit to decrease the debt burden on future generations. Respondents were divided on a proposal to freeze federal expenditures and raise taxes. A majority probably favored freezing expenditures but less than half wanted higher taxes. A majority in every state favored balancing the budget by cutting all government programs, including farm price supports.

Price-Support and Commodity Programs

Farmers across the country were divided in their opinions on the direction they would like farm price- and income-support policies to take after 1985. Nonetheless, the survey results reveal some preferences.

In 12 states respondents most frequently preferred the present voluntary programs to mandatory acreage reduction, allotments and marketing quotas, or complete elimination of these programs (Table 2; question 1). In Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the option chosen by the greatest number of farmers was to require that all producers participate in a set-aside program approved in a referendum, but in no state was this preference expressed by more than 30 percent of the respondents.

Only a few farmers wanted to return to the acreage allotments and marketing quotas used in the 1950s and early 1960s. Farmers in Alabama and Florida showed the highest preference for this approach, but even in those states more preferred voluntary programs.

Although some suggested eliminating all set-aside, price-support, and government storage programs, only in Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington, Idaho, Florida, and Maryland was this the most frequent choice among those suggested. In none of these states was this option favored by more than 36 percent of the respondents; in other states the percentage ranged from 17 to 34 percent. These responses indicate that a majority of farmers would not vote to eliminate these programs if a referendum were held.

On the other hand, the combined responses for (1) keeping voluntary

programs and (2) eliminating all set-aside, price-support, and storage programs indicate that a referendum to establish a mandatory acreage control program would likely fail if either a simple majority or a two-thirds majority were required for passage.

Farmers' responses varied somewhat with sales volume, but these differences were not the same in all states. Those farmers with more than \$200,000 in annual cash receipts tended to prefer the present voluntary programs. In several states, more of the smaller-scale producers — those with less than \$40,000 in annual sales — preferred to eliminate all set-aside, price-support, and government storage programs. Farmers with medium-sized operations — those with \$40,000 to \$200,000 in annual sales — seemed to favor mandatory set-aside acreage reduction programs more frequently than those in other sales classes.

A higher proportion of livestock and dairy farmers also tended to favor eliminating all price-support programs, whereas grain farmers were more likely to prefer mandatory programs.

Regional differences were also noted. In Maryland the strongest sentiment for eliminating price-support programs was expressed by the small- and medium-scale producers, whereas those with larger sales volumes supported mandatory acreage reduction programs.

Even though producers were divided in their views on the general direction of price- and income-support policies, they were in much closer agreement on specific programs, as discussed in the following sections.

Target Prices and Deficiency Payments

Target prices and deficiency payments were popular with farmers (Table 3; question 2a). Only in Wisconsin and Maryland did more farmers oppose than favor continuation. In 9 of the 17 states more than 50 percent wanted them continued. The least support for target prices was in Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, Washington, and Maryland. Fewer farmers in these states get payments as large as those received by many farmers in the major grain-producing states. Greater support for continuing target prices came from farmers with larger annual sales volumes and from grain farmers.

Farmers were also divided in their opinions on the level at which target prices should be set compared to 1984 if the program is continued (Table 4; question 2b). In 13 states, more farmers preferred that they be kept the same than wanted them changed. In Nebraska, South Dakota, Idaho, and Texas, however, more farmers preferred that they be increased than wanted them kept the same or reduced. The preference in these states for increased target prices may be due to higher risks associated with farming, the occurrence of drouth and other losses in recent years, and the benefits received from deficiency payments when target prices are higher.

Grain farmers and those producing both grain and livestock supported higher target prices more strongly than did livestock and dairy farmers. More of the latter group preferred that they remain unchanged.

Only a small segment of respondents preferred lower target prices. In Alabama and Maryland, lower prices were supported by 13 and 12 percent of farmers, respectively; in all other states the percentage was lower.

Acreage Diversion Payments

Farmers across the country differed in their opinions about continuing acreage diversion payments (Table 5; question 3). In 11 states, 45 percent or more of the farmers wanted them continued. In six states — Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, Washington, Alabama, and Maryland — more farmers preferred that they be discontinued. The strongest support was expressed in those states where acreage diversion programs have been widely used.

Support for diversion payments was more evident among farmers with gross incomes greater than \$40,000 and among farmers who derive a substantial part of their income from grain sales.

The Farmer-Owned Reserve

In 16 of the 17 states in which the survey was conducted, more farmers wanted to see the farmer-owned reserve continued than discontinued (Table 6; question 4a). In the state of Washington, the response was evenly divided at 40 percent; the other 20 percent said they were not sure or did not respond. Farmers in the north central and southern states showed the strongest support for the reserve. Also, more farmers with gross sales greater than \$200,000 favored the reserve than did smaller-scale operators. Grain and livestock farmers showed about equal support. Wisconsin and Minnesota dairy farmers responded favorably, whereas dairy farmers in other states were less inclined to favor the reserve.

Respondents were also asked to indicate which of several policies they preferred for limiting the size of the reserve if it is continued (Table 7; question 4b).

In all states, the most frequent choice was to limit the reserve based

on a percentage of the previous year's use. This preference was expressed by farmers in all sales classes and with various major sources of income. In all states, 13 percent or fewer said they wanted no limit placed on the size of the reserve. In most states, more farmers preferred that the Secretary of Agriculture set the limit than wanted no limit at all. The percentage of farmers not responding to this question was much higher in Washington and Idaho than in other states.

Setting Loan Rates

Over the years since the first price-support legislation was passed, loan rates for storable commodities have been based on (1) a percentage of parity, (2) a percentage of the average market price at designated times and places, (3) the estimated cash cost of production, or (4) a compromise among various interests in the legislative process.

The questionnaire asked farmers whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that loan rates for price-supported commodities should be based on a percentage of the average market price for the past 3 to 5 years (Table 8; question 5).

In 10 of the 17 states, a majority of the farmers agreed with this statement. In all states but one, more farmers agreed than disagreed. In South Dakota, about the same percentage agreed and disagreed; 25 percent were not sure or did not respond. In other states the percentage who were not sure or did not respond ranged from 21 to 36 percent.

The farmers' gross sales volume did not seem to be associated with their views on this issue. The responses in some states showed more support from grain farmers. In other states, however, no difference could be detected among the responses of grain, livestock, and dairy farmers.

The Payment-in-Kind Program

In 1983, the payment-in-kind (PIK) program was widely used, contributing to a record high cost for farm price-support programs. Respondents were asked if they thought the PIK program should be used again if large stocks recurred (Table 9; question 6).

In 11 of the 17 states, using the PIK program again if needed was favored by more farmers than opposed it. In Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Idaho, and Washington, more farmers opposed using the PIK program again. Areas of strongest support were the north central states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Kansas, and Ohio; all of the southern states surveyed — Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas — and Maryland.

Respondents with gross sales greater than \$200,000 showed a stronger preference for continued use of the PIK program than those with smaller sales volumes. Those who derived most of their farm income from grain production showed stronger support for another PIK program than did livestock or dairy farmers.

More Benefits for Smaller Farms

In 15 of the 17 states, a higher percentage of farmers agreed than disagreed with the proposition that future farm programs should be changed to give the most benefits to small-scale farmers with gross sales less than \$40,000 (Table 10; question 11). In Texas and Washington, however, a higher percentage disagreed. The strongest support for providing greater program benefits to small-scale farmers was recorded in Maryland, in the north central states, and in the South except for Texas.

As one would expect, farmers with gross sales less than \$40,000 showed very strong agreement with the proposal, whereas those with larger gross sales were strongly opposed to the idea. Differences in opinion according to the farmers' major source of income were not readily apparent. More dairy farmers seemed to oppose the idea than did producers of other commodities.

Payment Limitations

The 1981 Agricultural and Food Act placed a limit of \$50,000 on direct payments to any individual. Respondents were asked what payment-limitation policy they preferred (Table 11; question 15). The preference expressed most frequently in 13 of the 17 states surveyed was to make no change. In four states — Ohio, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Maryland — the most frequent preference was to decrease the \$50,000 limit. Fewer than 17 percent of the respondents in each state wanted the limit eliminated completely. The percentage not responding was relatively low, usually 10 percent or less. In most states, a larger percentage of respondents wanted the limit eliminated completely than wanted it increased.

Responses were closely related to the farmers' sales volumes. Those with gross sales greater than \$200,000 were most inclined to favor increasing the payment limit or eliminating it completely. Those with gross sales less than \$40,000 appeared to favor decreasing the limit. Those in the middle sales group preferred to keep payment limits the same. Grain farmers most frequently preferred to increase the limits or keep them the same. Livestock farmers tended to prefer decreasing the limit or making no change. Dairy farmers most frequently preferred that the limit be kept the same, decreased, or eliminated completely.

Making Major Program Changes

What if budget constraints required major changes in farm price-support programs? Farmers surveyed were asked to choose among a low "safety-net" loan and target-price program, a farm income insurance plan, or a plan they could suggest themselves (Table 12; question 14). In every state except Florida, more farmers preferred a low "safety-net" loan and target-price program to a farm income insurance plan. Fewer than 19 percent proposed an alternative plan.

Farmers with gross sales greater than \$200,000 preferred the low safety-net loan and target-price program. Farmers with lower gross sales more frequently favored the income insurance plan. In most states, farmers preferred the low safety-net loan program regardless of their major source of income. In some instances, however, livestock, dairy, and specialized-crop farmers showed somewhat more preference for the income insurance program.

The Role of Soil Conservation

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a statement that all farmers should be required to follow recommended soil conservation practices on their farms to qualify for farm price-support benefits (Table 13; question 7a). A majority of farmers — from 57 to 71 percent — in every state surveyed agreed with this recommendation.

Operators of all sizes and types of farms concurred. It appears that farmers are more in agreement on this matter than on most other issues covered in the survey. However, no explanation or definition of approved soil conservation plans was given, and the costs of following such plans were not mentioned. These issues could affect the response, depending on the individual farmer's situation.

Respondents were also asked how they thought federal funds for soil conservation should be distributed to each state: in proportion to the number of farms or according to the severity of the state's erosion problems (Table 14; question 7b). In every state, the answer was clear: give more funds to states with the most severe erosion problems. Farmers with all sizes and types of farms agreed on this question.

Dairy Price-Support Programs

The special incentive program passed by Congress in late 1983 to encourage dairy farmers to reduce milk production went into effect just a few weeks before the survey was conducted. All farmers were asked if payments for dairy production cut-backs should be continued beyond the 15-month program period if milk production is still excessive in 1985 (Table 15; question 12).

The responses to this question varied widely. In 15 states more farmers opposed than favored continuing paid programs if milk production is still excessive in 1985. Producers in only two states, Minnesota and Texas, preferred that the program be continued.

Responses on this issue among farmers with different sales volumes or major sources of income were not consistent from state to state. Milk producers were divided. In Wisconsin, fewer dairy farmers than other respondents favored continuation of the program. More Minnesota dairy farmers favored than opposed continuation.

Those who had milk cows were asked what effect the milk incentive program was likely to have on the number of milk cows on their farms by the end of 1985 (Table 16; question 13). Because such a small percentage of the respondents had milk

cows, it was difficult to draw any reliable conclusion from the responses. In four states, however, a significant proportion (from 22 to 62 percent) of the respondents kept milk cows. Those respondents made the following predictions about the number of cows they would have by the end of 1985:

State	More	Fewer	Same
	percent		
Wisconsin.....	40	6	54
Michigan.....	27	8	65
Minnesota.....	16	19	65
Ohio.....	18	27	55

These early estimates by producers indicate that the milk incentive program will most likely increase or have no effect on the number of cows by the end of 1985. Summer 1984 estimates show some decline in cow numbers. This trend would have to be reversed if the number of cows is to be the same at the end of 1985 as it was before the program was initiated.

Natural Disasters and Federal Crop Insurance

Farmers were asked which government policy they would prefer to protect them from farm production losses caused by natural disasters (Table 17; question 9). The preference most frequently expressed in 15 of the 17 states was to continue present federal crop insurance. In South Dakota and Texas, more producers preferred to return to a disaster payment plan in which the government pays all costs, similar to the program in effect from 1974 through 1980. Disaster payments are no longer made where federal crop insurance is available.

In no state did a majority of the respondents select continuing present crop insurance or returning to disaster payments. A smaller percentage, ranging from 8 to 23 percent, preferred to eliminate all disaster payments and federal crop insurance.

Farmers were also asked how they viewed federal all-risk crop insurance (Tables 18, 19, and 20; questions 10a, 10b, and 10c). The percentage who gave no opinion or did not respond to the series of three questions ranged from 42 to 68 percent, suggesting that many farmers are not well informed about the program.

It appears that a substantial educational effort is needed to help farmers understand the program and enable them to assess its value and adequacy of coverage. For example, in all 17 states more of the respondents thought it was expensive than considered it a good buy. In 14 states more of the farmers thought the coverage was inadequate than felt it was adequate. In 17 states, more of the respondents thought it was complicated than found it easy to understand. These opinions appear to prevail among respondents with all sizes and types of farms.

Credit Policy

The Farmers Home Administration was established by the federal government to provide credit to farmers who cannot get credit from other sources. Farmers were asked which credit policy they preferred for present Farmers Home Administration borrowers (Table 21; question 8). The most frequent preference in all 17 states regardless of size and type of farm was to continue the present policy of not foreclosing until all repayment efforts have failed.

Providing a moratorium on all foreclosures was favored by 20 percent or fewer of the respondents, and a moratorium only for selected young farmers was favored by 10 percent or fewer in all states. Some farmers — 15 to 25 percent — believed that the policy of dealing with delinquent loans should be stricter.

Program Administration

For more than 50 years, policy decisions about farm commodity programs have been made by Congress and administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. In recent years Congress has tried to restrict the discretionary authority of the Secretary of Agriculture in administering price-support programs. In the survey, farmers were asked who should make the major farm commodity program decisions (Table 22; question 16). The responses showed that farmers' preferences were divided among the various choices.

The first choice of producers in 14 states was to let producers organize, control, and finance their own supply-management programs. The first preference in Minnesota, South Carolina, and Texas was for the President to appoint an independent board or commission representing farmers, agribusinesses, and consumers to operate under Congressional guidelines. In 10 other states respondents preferred a board or commission to the present system. In two states,

Illinois and Maryland, farmers split evenly between the independent board or commission and the present system, but the first choice was organization and control by producers.

Strongest support for farmer organization, control, and financing of commodity programs was expressed by those farmers with gross sales less than \$40,000. Greater support for the present system or an independent board or commission came from farmers with annual gross sales greater than \$40,000. Dairy and livestock farmers showed more preference for producer organization and control than did grain farmers.

The lack of support for the present system suggested that farmers are generally dissatisfied with present programs or program administration. This view, however, may result from a failure to understand the present system, how policies are established, and why present rules and procedures are followed. It may also reflect a willingness to try something new even though it is not known how other alternatives would perform.

Food Assistance

In recent years, expenditures on food stamps have been about \$12 billion per year. Farmers were asked what level of expenditure they would recommend for food stamps in the future (Table 23; question 18).

Their recommendations varied. In 13 states, the option most frequently chosen was to decrease the amount spent. In three states, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Washington, the most frequent choice was to keep them

about the same. In four states — Idaho, Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina — decreasing expenditures was the most frequent preference, but the second most frequent choice was eliminating food stamps completely. Very few farmers (between 1 and 7 percent in the states surveyed) wanted food stamp expenditures increased.

The preferences for food stamp expenditures varied slightly accord-

ing to the farmers' size of operation and major source of income, but no consistent pattern was observed.

Despite arguments that food stamps help to secure votes for farm programs and have a positive effect on the demand for food products, the stamps were not popular with producers across the country. In 13 states, 50 percent or more favored either decreasing expenditures or eliminating food stamps completely.

Agricultural Trade Policy

Increased agricultural exports have added an important new dimension to U.S. agricultural marketing practices and policy in recent years. Farmers were asked to react to a list of proposals for increasing agricultural exports.

Should we match export subsidies of our competitors? In all states participating, from 41 to 59 percent of all producers agreed that we should match our competitors' export subsidies (Table 24; question 17a). More farmers were uncertain about this proposal than opposed to it.

No variation in responses was noticeable among producers with different sales volumes. Variations among those engaged in different types of farming were not great, but it appeared that a higher proportion of livestock producers than grain or dairy farmers supported the concept of matching export subsidies.

Should we encourage lower trade barriers by major importers? In 16 states farmers showed strong agreement with the policy of encouraging lower trade barriers by major importers of our farm products (Table 25; question 17b).

Farmers with gross sales greater than \$200,000 voiced strongest support for this approach. Very little variation in response was observed among farmers with different major sources of income.

Should we lower U.S. support prices? The possibility of lowering our support prices evoked more opposition from producers in all states than any other method suggested for increasing agricultural exports (Table 26; question 17c). In only two states, Washington and Maryland, did more farmers agree than disagree with this proposal. In five states — Ohio, Wisconsin, Idaho, Alabama, and Florida — the responses were almost evenly divided. The largest difference was in Texas, where 55 percent disagreed with lowering support prices and 12 percent agreed. The percentage of farmers who were not sure or gave no response was larger for this question than for most of the others.

Producers with gross sales greater than \$200,000 seemed more willing to accept lower support prices than producers with lower sales volumes. Livestock farmers were more agreeable to reducing support prices than were grain farmers.

Should we establish a marketing board? Marketing boards operate in Canada, Australia, and South Africa, all major grain-exporting countries. This question was posed without making any effort to find out how much the respondents knew about marketing boards.

In all 17 states more farmers favored than opposed establishing a marketing board (Table 27; question 17d). In most states, the difference between those supporting and those opposing a marketing board was 30 percentage points or more. Twenty-one to 36 percent of the respondents in the various states said they were

not sure, suggesting that many producers recognized the limitations of their knowledge about marketing boards and the potential effects on their farming operations.

In some states no differences were noted among the responses of farmers in different sales classes, but in other states those producers with annual sales of less than \$200,000 showed more support for a marketing board.

Although in some states little difference was observed among responses from farmers with various sources of income, in other states livestock and dairy farmers showed stronger preferences for a marketing board.

Should we promote bilateral trade agreements? The farmers surveyed strongly supported bilateral trade agreements (Table 28; question 17e). In the 16 states where this question was asked, a majority of respondents agreed that the U.S. should promote these agreements.

No relationship could be observed between the responses to this question and the farmers' sales volume or major source of income. The percentages of those who were not sure or did not respond were greater than the percentage that disagreed with the use of bilateral agreements.

Should we join an export cartel? Farmers' opinions were divided on whether the United States should join an export cartel with other exporting countries (Table 29; question 17f). The percentage who agreed that we should join varied from 27 to 34 percent. In 13 states, the percentage of farmers who favored an export cartel was slightly higher than those who opposed it. In the three states where a higher percentage opposed the idea than supported it, the differences were 4 percentage points or less.

Farmers with gross sales greater than \$200,000 expressed the greatest opposition to an export cartel. In some states livestock farmers opposed the cartel idea more than did other types of farmers.

The most frequent response to this question was "not sure," and the percentage who did not respond was higher than for many of the other questions. Perhaps one reason is that it is not known what effect an export cartel would have on U.S. agricultural export volumes when export shares are worked out among the participating countries. Uncertainty about the role that government would play and farmers' apprehensions about letting governments negotiate shares of the world market may in part explain why a large percentage of farmers were unsure or did not respond.

Should we set up a two-price plan? Respondents were asked if they favored setting up a two-price plan that would establish a higher price for commodities used in the domestic market and a lower world market price for exports.

The farmers surveyed were divided on the issue (Table 33; question 17j). In 13 states — the Great Lakes states, the Great Plains, the South, and the East — more farmers supported a two-price plan than opposed it. In Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Washington, more farmers disagreed with the plan than favored it.

In some states more respondents with annual gross sales less than \$40,000 agreed with the two-price concept than did those with higher sales volumes. No consistent pattern of responses by source of farm income was evident.

Considering the division of opinion among the respondents and the relatively large percentage who indicated that they were not sure or did not respond, it appears that a majority of American farmers did not favor a two-price plan.

Should we provide more funds for food aid? Farmers liked the idea of providing more food aid as a means of expanding exports (Table 30; question 17g). In 16 states more respondents agreed than disagreed that more funds should be provided. In Alabama and Florida opinion was almost evenly divided. Farmers in the north central states and the West seemed to favor food aid more than did farmers in the South and East.

Producers with annual gross sales greater than \$40,000 favored food aid more frequently than did those with lower sales volumes. Responses showed no consistent variation with the farmers' major source of income.

Should we strengthen the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)? How much the farmers surveyed knew about the GATT was not explored. In all 17 states, however, a strong majority favored strengthening the GATT as a means of increasing exports (Table 31; question 17h). Fewer than 5 percent of the respondents opposed the plan. In those states where fewer than 60 percent agreed, the percentage of those who said they were not sure or did not respond was a little higher.

Farmers with annual sales greater than \$200,000 expressed more support for the GATT and less uncertainty than did those with lower sales volumes. Respondents in all income source categories expressed about the same degree of agreement.

Should we expand farmer-financed market development programs? Joint market development efforts between the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and private commodity and industry groups have been carried on for several years. A number of states have commodity check-off programs and allocate part of the funds to foreign market development. Between 50 and 75 percent of the respondents in all 17 states agreed that such programs should be expanded (Table 32; question 17i). A substantial majority of respondents from all sales classes and types of farms favored these programs.

Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Because fiscal and monetary policies influence credit costs, they are of concern to farmers. Survey respondents were therefore asked to react to a series of five statements on fiscal issues.

Farmers were concerned about the size of and increase in the federal deficit. The respondents overwhelmingly disagreed with the statement "We should keep things as they are and not worry about balancing the budget." (Table 34; question 19a). The proportion who disagreed ranged from 72 to 87 percent in the states surveyed. The percentage of those who were not sure or did not respond was the lowest of any question asked in the survey. Responses from producers in all sales volume and income source categories were uniform and consistent.

Reducing the Deficit

Farmers in all states surveyed believed that we should reduce the deficit to reduce interest rates to borrowers (Table 35; question 19b). The proportion who agreed with this position ranged from 74 to 87 percent. The strongest agreement came from producers in the north central and western states. Respondents in all sales volume and income source categories consistently agreed.

How do farmers view freezing federal expenditures and raising taxes? This question was difficult to answer because it involves two methods for balancing the budget, one that might be viewed as agreeable and one that might not. The proportion who agreed with this proposal ranged from 19 to 32 percent in 15 states (Table 36; question 19c). The proportion in 15 states who disagreed ranged from 37 to 48 percent.

In Texas the question was asked in two parts. A majority of respondents strongly disagreed with raising taxes, but a majority agreed that federal expenditures should be frozen (see footnote, table 36).

In some states, more operators with annual gross sales greater than \$200,000 were inclined toward freezing expenditures and raising taxes than were those with lower sales volumes. Responses were not consistently related to the farmers' major source of income.

The huge debt burden being built up for future generations was also a concern among farmers in all participating states. Between 74 and 89 percent of respondents agreed with a statement that we should reduce the deficit to reduce the debt burden on future generations (Table 37; question 19d). Respondents in all gross sales and income source categories were consistently in agreement.

Balancing the Budget

To determine how farmers view a balanced budget, respondents were asked to react to a statement that the budget should be balanced even if doing so required a substantial cut in all government programs, including farm price supports (Table 38; question 19e). The responses indicated that farmers favored a balanced budget and were willing to take a cut in farm price-support programs to achieve it. The percentage of respondents who agreed in the states surveyed ranged from 55 to 72 percent. Strong agreement prevailed among respondents in all sales volume and income source categories.

Profile of Survey Respondents

In each state where a survey was conducted, the farmers asked to respond to the questionnaire were chosen so as to be representative of the state's farmers and ranchers. To provide insight about the respondents, the questionnaire included a number of questions about the farmers, their farm operations, and their participation in farm programs and farmers' organizations during 1983. Their responses are summarized in this section.

Participation in 1983 farm programs. The percentage of respondents who participated in the wheat acreage reduction program varied widely, depending upon the significance of wheat production in the state and in the individual farm operation (Table 39; question 20a.) More than half of the respondents in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas took part in the program. Participation in the wheat PIK program ranged from 3 to 56 percent in the states surveyed.

Participation in the feed grains acreage reduction program varied from 8 to 64 percent. In the principal corn-belt states, however, more than half of the respondents took part in the program. A large percentage also participated in the feed grain PIK program. More than half of the respondents in Texas participated in the cotton acreage reduction program.

Age. Farmers in all age groups participated in the survey in each state (Table 40; question 20b). About two-thirds of all respondents were between 35 and 64 years old.

Number of acres farmed. Farmers with small, medium, and large farms were represented in the sample (Table 41; question 20c). The average size of operation ranged from 140 acres in Alabama to 1,100 acres in Texas.

Percentage of land owned. The respondents owned an average between 47 percent (in Texas) and 71 percent (in Michigan) of the land they farmed (Table 42; question 20d). Respondents in the West and in the Great Lakes states owned the highest percentage of the land they farmed.

Gross annual sales per farm. Respondents operated farms in all gross sales classes: less than \$40,000, from \$40,000 to \$199,999, and \$200,000 or more in annual sales volume (Table 43; question 20e). In six states — Indiana, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Maryland — half or more of the respondents reported less than \$40,000 annual gross sales from farming. The percentage of small farms was highest in the East and South. The percentage of large farms was greatest in the West and in Texas. Fifteen to 21 percent of the respondents in Idaho, Washington, and Texas reported annual gross sales of \$200,000 or more.

Most important source of 1983 farm income. Grain, livestock, and dairy production were the most important sources of farm income reported by the survey respondents (Table 44; question 20f). In nine states (Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Idaho, Washington, and Texas) grain production was reported as the major source of income by 30 percent or more of the respondents. In three states — Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota — 18 percent or more of the respondents reported dairy farming as their most important source of farm income.

Last year in school completed.

All levels of formal education were represented, from grade school through college graduation (Table 45; question 20g). The highest percentage of respondents who reported having received formal education beyond high school was in the West and South.

Income from off-farm employment and investments. The proportion of income derived from off-farm sources ranged from less than 25 percent to more than 75 percent of the respondents' total income (Table 46; question 20h). In six states (Indiana, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, and Maryland) 33 percent or more of the respondents reported that 50 percent or more of their total family income came from off-farm employment or investments.

Membership in farm and commodity organizations. More respondents reported membership in the Farm Bureau than in any other general farm organization (Table 47; question 20i). More than 50 percent of the respondents in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Texas, and Maryland were members. Membership in the Farmers Union was the next most frequently reported with greatest membership in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Membership in commodity organizations varied according to the importance of the individual commodities in each state. The organizations of the cattlemen, pork producers, milk producers, wheat growers, and soybean producers appeared to have the largest membership among the commodity groups.

Comparison with 1980 Survey Results

A sample of farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Washington, and Texas also participated in a similar survey on agricultural and food policy issues in the fall of 1980⁵. In cases where similar questions were asked in the two surveys, comparisons can be made between 1980 and 1984 responses.

General direction of future farm programs. In 1984 the percentage of farmers in each of the eight states who favored voluntary programs was smaller than the proportion in 1980 who supported a continuation of the current law with minor changes. Changes in opinions about eliminating all price- and income-support programs were observed among the eight states. In Illinois and Texas,

fewer farmers wanted to eliminate all price- and income-support programs in 1984 than in 1980. In Indiana the percentage was the same in both years. In Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Washington, more farmers in 1984 wanted to eliminate the programs than did four years earlier.

Target prices. In 1984 more farmers in each of the eight states wanted to keep target prices than did in 1980.

Giving a larger share of benefits to farmers with annual gross sales less than \$40,000. Fewer favored providing more benefits for small-scale operations in 1984 than in 1980.

Requiring approved soil conservation plans to qualify for price- and income-support programs. In 1984 a larger percentage of farmers in all eight states favored this policy than in 1980.

Marketing board. In six of the eight states, more farmers favored a marketing board in 1984 than in 1980. In one state the results were unchanged, and in only one state did support decline.

International trade agreements or export cartels. Support for joining an export cartel in 1984 was weaker in all eight states than it was for a similar concept (establishing an international agreement) in 1980.

⁵ For a complete presentation of the results, see "How Farmers View Agricultural and Food Policy Issues," in General Farm Bill of 1981, Hearings Before the Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, 97th Congress, First Session, Serial No. 97-6, Part I, pp. 286-313.

Table 1. Participating States, Size of Sample, and Number of Usable Responses.

Region and state	Number of farmers in sample	Number of usable responses	Response percentage
North Central			
Illinois.....	1,500	527	35
Indiana.....	1,975	733	37
Kansas.....	3,000	995	33
Michigan.....	1,200	441	37
Minnesota.....	1,500	368	25
Nebraska.....	1,500	406	27
Ohio.....	2,000	423	21
South Dakota.....	1,500	480	32
Wisconsin.....	1,500	250	17
West			
Idaho.....	1,433	558	39
Washington.....	993	192	19
South			
Alabama.....	1,479	284	19
Florida.....	1,466	287	20
Oklahoma.....	1,750	645	37
South Carolina ..	1,000	588	59
Texas.....	1,851	645	35
East			
Maryland.....	1,000	263	26
Total.....	26,647	8,085	30

Table 2. Preferred Policy on Production and Price Supports after 1985.

Region and state	Keep voluntary programs	Require all producers to participate in set-side program	Reestablish acreage allotments and marketing quotas	Eliminate set-aside, price-support, and government storage programs	Undecided	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>							
North Central							
Illinois.....	33	23	8	21	6	7	2
Indiana.....	31	22	8	26	9	3	2
Kansas.....	22	26	11	20	9	9 ^a	4
Michigan.....	28	16	8	32	8	4	4
Minnesota.....	32	19	12	24	5	5	2
Nebraska.....	25	28	9	22	7	6	3
Ohio.....	33	17	10	29	6	4	2
South Dakota.....	26	14	12	28	8	9	3
Wisconsin.....	21	16	10	36	9	7	2
West							
Idaho.....	25	13	9	34	8	7	4
Washington.....	25	16	5	36	7	5	5
South							
Alabama.....	28	14	15	21	11	2	9
Florida.....	27	14	17	28	9	2	3
Oklahoma.....	26	29	...	17	...	23 ^b	5 ^c
South Carolina ...	26	26	10	18	6	10	4
Texas.....	15	45	15	8	5	2	10
East							
Maryland.....	26	14	10	33	8	4	5

^a Six percent preferred bushel quotas.

^b Twelve percent preferred eliminating all acreage reduction and price-support programs and retaining deficiency payments only for medium and small farms. Eleven percent preferred eliminating acreage controls and establishing a two-price plan with a higher price for domestic sales and a lower world price for export sales.

^c Combined percentage of those who did not respond and those who suggested other programs not included in note b.

Table 3. Opinions on Continuation of Target Prices and Deficiency Payments in the 1985 Farm Bill.

Region and state	Continue	Do not continue	Not sure	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	58	30	10	2
Indiana	52	31	15	2
Kansas	61	25	12	3
Michigan	44	42	2	12
Minnesota	54	29	13	3
Nebraska	60	28	11	1
Ohio	48	37	13	2
South Dakota	67	22	9	3
Wisconsin	33	46	14	7
West				
Idaho	45	40	12	3
Washington	44	42	10	4
South				
Alabama	45	27	19	9
Florida	44	35	18	3
Oklahoma	62	24	14 ^a	...
South Carolina	52	25	15	8
Texas	75	11	6	8
East				
Maryland	32	43	24	2

^a Includes those who did not respond.

Table 4. Preferred Future Target Prices Compared with Those of 1984.

Region and state	Higher	About the same	Lower	No opinion	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois	34	41	8	9	8
Indiana	35	37	7	10	11
Kansas	35	39	5	8	13
Michigan	27	32	10	10	20
Minnesota	33	38	6	9	15
Nebraska	44	30	5	9	12
Ohio	30	34	9	10	17
South Dakota	42	41	5	9	3
Wisconsin	12	32	10	9	38
West					
Idaho	25	20	2	4	49
Washington	17	29	6	5	44
South					
Alabama ^a	21	29	13	15	23
Florida	29	31	5	18	17
Oklahoma	31	45	7	17 ^b	...
South Carolina	31	35	4	12	18
Texas	56	24	3	6	11
East					
Maryland	18	32	12	20	17

Table 5. Opinions on Continuation of Acreage Diversion Payments.

Region and state	Continue	Do not continue	Not sure	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	49	36	13	2
Indiana	46	38	13	2
Kansas	57	30	10	3
Michigan	43	46	9	2
Minnesota	57	30	10	3
Nebraska	58	30	11	1
Ohio	47	38	13	3
South Dakota	60	27	11	2
Wisconsin	34	50	9	7
West				
Idaho	43	44	10	4
Washington	39	46	10	5
South				
Alabama	37	41	16	6
Florida	47	37	13	3
Oklahoma	57	32	10*	...
South Carolina	50	29	13	8
Texas	72	15	5	8
East				
Maryland	34	48	15	3

* Includes those who did not respond.

Table 6. Opinions on Continuation of the Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve.

Region and state	Continue	Do not continue	Not sure	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	48	30	20	2
Indiana	49	26	24	2
Kansas	45	31	22	2
Michigan	46	30	21	3
Minnesota	59	25	13	3
Nebraska	61	24	13	2
Ohio	51	28	20	2
South Dakota	57	23	18	2
Wisconsin	43	34	17	6
West				
Idaho	46	31	19	3
Washington	40	40	16	4
South				
Alabama	50	19	23	8
Florida	53	22	23	2
Oklahoma	46	32	22*	...
South Carolina	45	21	26	8
Texas	45	22	24	9
East				
Maryland	45	24	28	3

* Includes those who did not respond.

Table 7. Preferred Policy for Limiting the Size of the Grain Reserve.

Region and state	No limit on size of reserve	Let Secretary of Agriculture set limit	Set limit based on percentage of previous year's use	Not sure	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois.....	9	18	47	18	8
Indiana.....	10	15	47	20	9
Kansas.....	9	14	41	23	13
Michigan.....	13	13	43	18	14
Minnesota.....	13	16	42	18	11
Nebraska.....	13	16	44	18	10
Ohio.....	11	13	50	13	13
South Dakota.....	10	17	49	21	3
Wisconsin.....	6	10	45	14	25
West					
Idaho.....	8	8	26	8	49
Washington.....	11	7	23	9	50
South					
Alabama.....	12	14	41	19	14
Florida.....	11	15	44	21	9
Oklahoma.....	9	14	47	30	...
South Carolina.....	9	14	40	20	17
Texas.....	13	9	40	25	13
East					
Maryland.....	7	11	47	22	13

Table 8. Responses to the Statement that Loan Rates Should Be Based on a Percentage of the 3-to-5-Year Average Market Price.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois.....	9	46	17	14	10	4
Indiana.....	8	42	20	17	8	5
Kansas.....	6	34	20	20	13	6
Michigan.....	10	42	19	16	10	4
Minnesota.....	12	40	16	19	9	4
Nebraska.....	10	34	20	19	12	6
Ohio.....	10	42	18	16	9	5
South Dakota.....	4	33	21	24	14	4
Wisconsin.....	8	44	20	12	10	5
West						
Idaho.....	10	36	20	17	12	5
Washington.....	8	36	21	16	12	7
South						
Alabama.....	15	40	20	10	6	9
Florida.....	13	47	16	12	8	4
Oklahoma.....	10	45	18	15	9	3*
South Carolina.....	12	47	15	12	4	10
Texas.....	13	32	15	16	14	10
East						
Maryland.....	7	39	26	12	7	10

* Includes those who made other responses or did not respond.

Table 9. Responses to the Statement that the Payment-in-Kind Program Should Be Used Again If Large Stocks Reappear.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	20	33	13	17	16	1
Indiana	17	35	11	20	16	1
Kansas	12	31	18	20	16	3
Michigan	15	27	12	24	20	2
Minnesota	18	36	11	18	15	2
Nebraska	18	24	13	21	23	1
Ohio	20	31	10	20	18	1
South Dakota	16	26	12	25	19	2
Wisconsin	10	22	9	26	30	2
West						
Idaho	10	27	13	26	22	2
Washington	9	27	12	24	23	5
South						
Alabama	18	29	18	13	14	8
Florida	23	29	17	15	13	3
Oklahoma	17	37	11	20	13	2*
South Carolina	21	30	13	15	13	8
Texas	34	28	9	14	8	7
East						
Maryland	10	32	16	18	20	4

* Includes those who made other responses or did not respond.

Table 10. Responses to the Statement that Most Benefits Should Be Given to Smaller Farms with Annual Sales less than \$40,000.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	21	29	13	27	10	0
Indiana	28	28	10	20	12	2
Kansas	27	26	11	23	10	2
Michigan	26	25	9	23	13	3
Minnesota	31	23	7	26	12	1
Nebraska	34	23	9	22	9	4
Ohio	34	24	10	20	9	3
South Dakota	36	33	7	8	4	12
Wisconsin	32	28	9	16	12	3
West						
Idaho	26	23	10	25	15	2
Washington	22	19	7	20	27	5
South						
Alabama	34	24	12	13	8	9
Florida	27	29	9	19	9	7
Oklahoma	29	33	8	20	7	3
South Carolina	28	28	9	19	9	7
Texas	14	16	11	24	26	9
East						
Maryland	27	29	8	19	11	6

Table 11. Preferred Policy for Payment Limitations in the Future.

Region and state	Increase the limit	Make no change	Decrease the limit	Eliminate the limit completely	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois.....	9	43	32	13	3
Indiana.....	7	44	36	11	2
Kansas.....	7	45	34	11	2
Michigan.....	8	39	37	10	5
Minnesota.....	6	43	40	8	3
Nebraska.....	7	50	34	6	3
Ohio.....	8	38	45	7	3
South Dakota.....	6	49	33	9	3
Wisconsin.....	5	35	46	9	5
West					
Idaho.....	10	37	35	11	7
Washington.....	15	33	26	17	10
South					
Alabama.....	9	35	37	8	11
Florida.....	6	42	32	11	9
Oklahoma.....	8	45	36	8	3
South Carolina.....	9	40	29	12	10
Texas.....	26	37	11	17	9
East					
Maryland.....	6	37	39	11	8

Table 12. Preferred Policy If a Major Change Is Required in Funding Government Programs.

Region and state	A low "safety-net" loan and target price	Farm income insurance	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois.....	45	32	14	9
Indiana.....	40	36	11	12
Kansas.....	40	28	18	14
Michigan.....	41	29	17	13
Minnesota.....	44	32	16	8
Nebraska.....	42	27	14	17
Ohio.....	41	32	15	12
South Dakota.....	37	33	17	13
Wisconsin.....	37	28	18	16
West				
Idaho.....	39	28	19	14
Washington.....	40	26	18	15
South				
Alabama.....	40	32	12	16
Florida.....	33	38	17	12
Oklahoma.....	48	27	14	11
South Carolina.....	38	36	8	18
Texas.....	41	25	17	17
East				
Maryland.....	39	30	17	14

Table 13. Responses to the Statement that Farmers Should Be Required To Follow Recommended Soil Conservation Measures To Qualify for Price- and Income-Support Program Benefits.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	25	40	8	16	10	1
Indiana	23	40	12	16	9	1
Kansas	23	36	10	20	9	2
Michigan	26	38	9	14	10	3
Minnesota	26	38	8	17	8	3
Nebraska	35	38	9	10	6	1
Ohio	33	36	7	13	10	1
South Dakota	28	41	8	14	8	1
Wisconsin	31	34	6	16	11	2
West						
Idaho	17	40	8	21	12	2
Washington	25	35	7	15	15	3
South						
Alabama	30	35	10	10	8	8
Florida	23	38	14	12	11	2
Oklahoma	27	41	10	14	7	1*
South Carolina	25	39	8	14	7	7
Texas	22	30	8	18	14	8
East						
Maryland	27	44	8	12	7	2

* Includes those who made other responses or did not respond.

Table 14. Preferred Policy on How Federal Soil Conservation Funds Should Be Distributed.

Region and state	Give funds to states in proportion to number of farms	Give more funds to states with most severe erosion problems	Not sure	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois	22	54	14	8	2
Indiana	27	52	13	7	1
Kansas	24	55	12	7	2
Michigan	31	46	14	7	2
Minnesota	25	55	11	7	2
Nebraska	22	53	15	8	3
Ohio	26	51	13	8	2
South Dakota	10	43	8	38*	1
Wisconsin	28	53	10	6	3
West					
Idaho	20	57	11	10	2
Washington	22	59	11	0	8
South					
Alabama	26	53	8	4	9
Florida	28	48	15	7	3
Oklahoma	27	55	10	8 ^b	...
South Carolina	31	46	9	6	7
Texas	34	43	12	3	8
East					
Maryland	24	57	9	8	2

* Thirty-one percent said funds should be distributed in proportion to the acreage in each state.

^b Includes those who did not respond.

Table 15. Responses to the Statement that Payments to Dairy Farmers for Production Cutbacks Should Continue If Milk Production Is Still Excessive in 1985.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	7	23	27	25	16	2
Indiana	9	23	24	26	17	2
Kansas	8	22	28	20	17	5
Michigan	8	21	19	25	24	2
Minnesota	13	26	22	23	14	2
Nebraska	6	22	28	23	15	6
Ohio	8	26	17	23	23	2
South Dakota	7	24	26	24	17	2
Wisconsin	20	22	10	19	26	4
West						
Idaho	8	22	20	27	21	3
Washington	6	21	21	27	19	6
South						
Alabama	8	17	29	20	15	11
Florida	7	20	26	22	20	6
Oklahoma	8	25	28	24	11	4
South Carolina	5	24	23	23	15	9
Texas	8	27	32	14	10	9
East						
Maryland	11	16	24	22	19	8

Table 16. Number of Milk Cows that Farmers Who Now Have Cows Expect To Have by the End of 1985.

Region and state	More	Fewer	About the same number
<i>percentage of respondents</i>			
North Central			
Illinois	9	27	64
Indiana	18	25	67
Kansas	9	18	73
Michigan	27	8	65
Minnesota	16	19	65
Nebraska	13	20	67
Ohio	18	27	55
South Dakota*	...	...	...
Wisconsin	40	6	54
West			
Idaho	21	16	63
Washington*	...	...	...
South			
Alabama	10	20	70
Florida	...	17	83
Oklahoma	13	25	62
South Carolina	22	33	44
Texas	6	12	82
East			
Maryland	17	11	72

Note: Percentages are based on only those respondents who had milk cows at the time of the survey.

* This question was not asked in South Dakota and Washington.

Table 17. Preferred Policy for Dealing with Farm Production Risks from Natural Disasters.

Region and state	Continue present crop insurance	Disaster payments with government paying all costs	Eliminate all disaster payments and federal crop insurance	Not sure	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	43	19	16	17	3	2
Indiana	45	17	18	16	3	2
Kansas	37	26	17	15	2	2
Michigan	34	20	23	16	4	3
Minnesota	41	22	16	14	5	2
Nebraska	39	28	18	11	3	1
Ohio	44	17	22	13	3	2
South Dakota	29	32	23	10	5	1
Wisconsin	40	23	20	13	3	2
West						
Idaho	44	16	17	16	5	3
Washington	50	17	15	11	3	5
South						
Alabama	45	17	13	14	1	10
Florida	45	20	15	14	2	4
Oklahoma	39	22	15	17	7*	...
South Carolina	44	19	13	13	3	8
Texas	26	42	8	10	4	10
East						
Maryland	41	20	20	15	2	2

* Includes those who did not respond.

Table 18. Opinions on the Value of Federal Crop Insurance.

Region and state	A good buy	Expensive	No opinion	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	14	35	36	14
Indiana	18	29	39	14
Kansas	15	36	30	19
Michigan	7	30	49	14
Minnesota	17	34	31	18
Nebraska	20	29	31	20
Ohio	16	22	44	18
South Dakota	9	49	34	8
Wisconsin	12	19	44	24
West				
Idaho	14	32	45	9
Washington	21	37	34	8
South				
Alabama	17	28	28	27
Florida	21	25	34	21
Oklahoma	16	30	54*	...
South Carolina	18	28	31	23
Texas	12	48	20	20
East				
Maryland	11	25	46	18

* Includes those who did not respond.

Table 19. Opinions on the Adequacy of Federal Crop Insurance Coverage.

Region and state	Adequate	Inadequate	No opinion	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	22	28	31	19
Indiana	23	22	33	22
Kansas	18	34	27	21
Michigan	14	17	46	23
Minnesota	22	32	28	18
Nebraska	20	33	28	20
Ohio	17	18	36	28
South Dakota	14	40	34	12
Wisconsin	22	20	40	19
West				
Idaho	18	29	43	10
Washington	25	29	34	12
South				
Alabama	16	29	26	29
Florida	15	32	28	25
Oklahoma	16	24	60 ^a	...
South Carolina	18	28	26	28
Texas	11	51	20	18
East				
Maryland	15	15	41	30

^a Includes those who did not respond.

Table 20. Opinions on the Complexity of Federal Crop Insurance.

Region and state	Easy to understand	Complicated	No opinion	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	19	26	33	22
Indiana	14	24	34	28
Kansas	13	30	30	27
Michigan	11	20	46	23
Minnesota	18	23	33	25
Nebraska	16	26	30	27
Ohio	11	21	38	30
South Dakota	14	34	41	11
Wisconsin	10	22	43	26
West				
Idaho	14	28	47	11
Washington	18	31	40	11
South				
Alabama	9	24	27	40
Florida	14	25	29	32
Oklahoma	11	25	65 ^a	...
South Carolina	13	24	26	37
Texas	14	39	23	24
East				
Maryland	8	21	39	32

^a Includes those who did not respond.

Table 21. Preferred Credit Policy for Present Farmers Home Administration Borrowers.

Region and state	Continue present policy of not foreclosing unless all repayment efforts have failed	Provide a moratorium on all foreclosures until the economy improves	Provide a moratorium on foreclosures only for selected young farmers	Set a stricter policy on delinquent loans	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	57	15	7	15	5	1
Indiana	50	18	6	20	4	2
Kansas	53	17	7	16	5	3
Michigan	42	16	8	24	7	3
Minnesota	53	11	10	18	4	3
Nebraska	58	20	.. ^a	15	5	2
Ohio	50	14	9	21	4	1
South Dakota	49	16	10	15	7	3
Wisconsin	44	16	6	25	6	2
West						
Idaho	48	15	6	22	6	3
Washington	53	12	7	18	4	5
South						
Alabama	44	19	5	20	2	10
Florida	44	18	5	23	4	6
Oklahoma	53	15	8	18	6 ^b	..
South Carolina	43	22	4	17	4	10
Texas	55	5	5	21	3	11
East						
Maryland	47	15	7	21	6	4

^a Not included among the choices.

^b Includes those who did not respond.

Table 22. Opinions on Who Should Make the Major Farm Commodity Policy Decisions.

Region and state	Continue present system: Congress and Secretary of Agriculture	Independent board or commission	Let producers organize, control, and finance their own program	No opinion	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	24	24	40	6	3	3
Indiana	23	28	40	6	1	2
Kansas	20	33	35	7	2	3
Michigan	19	23	46	8	2	2
Minnesota	24	32	31	8	1	3
Nebraska	22	29	36	7	3	3
Ohio	23	25	40	8	3	2
South Dakota	19	32	33	9	5	2
Wisconsin	17	22	50	4	4	4
West						
Idaho	21	19	46	7	3	4
Washington	21	23	42	6	4	4
South						
Alabama	26	23	28	10	2	11
Florida	20	29	31	9	1	9
Oklahoma	24	29	33	7	3	4
South Carolina	25	27	24	8	3	13
Texas	23	36	22	7	3	9
East						
Maryland	22	22	37	7	4	8

Table 23. Preferred Policy for Future Expenditures on Food Stamps.

Region and state	Increase	Decrease	Keep about the same	Eliminate completely	No opinion	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	7	34	28	16	11	4
Indiana	4	37	26	20	11	2
Kansas	5	32	27	16	13	7
Michigan	6	30	28	22	10	4
Minnesota	7	33	30	16	10	4
Nebraska	3	26	28	25	11	6
Ohio	6	37	26	20	8	3
South Dakota*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	7	28	31	23	6	4
West						
Idaho	3	33	23	28	7	5
Washington	3	30	31	26	7	4
South						
Alabama	5	32	19	24	9	11
Florida	3	34	18	28	9	9
Oklahoma	5	33	27	21	11	3
South Carolina	3	39	20	21	6	12
Texas	1	34	18	9	27	11
East						
Maryland	5	31	30	19	8	8

* This question was not asked in South Dakota.

Table 24. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Match the Export Subsidies of Its Competitors.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	14	32	23	13	3	14
Indiana	14	35	26	12	4	9
Kansas	15	33	25	10	3	14
Michigan	19	34	23	11	3	11
Minnesota	20	39	20	11	3	7
Nebraska	15	35	22	9	3	16
Ohio	16	34	21	10	5	15
South Dakota	11	31	29	12	3	14
Wisconsin	26	32	17	8	7	10
West						
Idaho	16	30	25	12	7	10
Washington	16	34	15	16	11	8
South						
Alabama	16	27	25	6	4	21
Florida	13	28	26	11	5	17
Oklahoma	18	35	24	11	3	9
South Carolina	17	31	21	10	2	18
Texas	14	38	21	8	7	12
East						
Maryland	12	36	21	8	8	16

Table 25. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Encourage Major Importers To Lower Trade Barriers.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	24	38	18	8	3	9
Indiana	17	40	20	10	3	10
Kansas	15	34	23	8	4	16
Michigan	19	34	19	10	6	13
Minnesota	20	41	19	7	4	8
Nebraska	16	38	18	9	2	18
Ohio	18	40	13	12	4	13
South Dakota	7	23	21	27	11	11
Wisconsin	22	32	17	12	6	10
West						
Idaho	19	32	20	12	6	10
Washington	27	46	10	7	2	8
South						
Alabama	15	30	20	9	3	23
Florida	14	36	19	9	4	18
Oklahoma	19	43	16	9	3	10
South Carolina	17	32	19	9	3	19
Texas	14	34	22	10	6	14
East						
Maryland	17	32	21	8	4	18

Table 26. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Lower Its Support Prices To Increase Exports.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	5	16	21	28	8	22
Indiana	5	18	28	25	6	19
Kansas	3	13	27	29	10	18
Michigan	7	19	28	25	9	12
Minnesota	5	13	27	31	14	10
Nebraska	4	14	20	30	10	22
Ohio	9	18	25	24	6	18
South Dakota	4	16	21	36	12	11
Wisconsin	10	20	23	20	14	13
West						
Idaho	7	17	27	28	9	12
Washington	15	26	22	19	6	12
South						
Alabama	7	16	25	20	7	25
Florida	7	17	28	19	7	22
Oklahoma	6	18	24	30	8	14
South Carolina	5	19	26	23	8	19
Texas	4	8	21	32	23	12
East						
Maryland	9	22	33	13	3	19

Table 27. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Establish a Marketing Board.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	10	36	28	11	5	10
Indiana	11	34	30	10	4	11
Kansas	11	33	26	11	5	14
Michigan	12	31	30	8	5	14
Minnesota	9	34	31	10	8	8
Nebraska	10	39	21	7	3	19
Ohio	12	35	28	9	4	11
South Dakota	14	53	19	3	1	11
Wisconsin	11	37	26	7	6	12
West						
Idaho	12	36	26	10	5	11
Washington	10	25	23	21	10	10
South						
Alabama	11	31	31	3	2	22
Florida	10	32	32	4	2	20
Oklahoma	12	37	28	8	5	10
South Carolina	11	37	28	4	2	18
Texas	11	36	27	7	7	12
East						
Maryland	11	32	32	4	3	19

Table 28. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Promote Bilateral Trade Agreements.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	12	50	21	6	2	9
Indiana	12	44	28	4	1	12
Kansas	11	41	28	4	1	15
Michigan	11	37	28	7	3	15
Minnesota	14	46	24	5	2	10
Nebraska	10	40	25	3	1	21
Ohio	9	50	24	4	1	12
South Dakota*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	16	42	24	4	2	12
West						
Idaho	15	43	25	5	1	11
Washington	16	51	18	4	2	9
South						
Alabama	11	38	26	3	1	21
Florida	12	40	25	3	...	19
Oklahoma	13	47	23	5	1	11
South Carolina	12	42	23	2	1	19
Texas	12	43	25	4	4	12
East						
Maryland	13	42	23	3	2	18

* This question was not asked in South Dakota.

Table 29. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Join an Export Cartel.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	5	22	32	23	8	11
Indiana	5	24	33	18	6	14
Kansas	6	21	33	19	5	17
Michigan	8	22	32	19	5	13
Minnesota	6	27	33	16	8	10
Nebraska	5	24	32	15	4	20
Ohio	5	25	28	21	7	14
South Dakota*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	7	27	32	14	7	13
West						
Idaho	6	21	33	25	6	11
Washington	8	21	27	22	10	12
South						
Alabama	6	23	33	12	2	24
Florida	6	22	33	13	4	22
Oklahoma	8	24	32	20	4	12
South Carolina	6	19	36	16	2	20
Texas	6	22	34	16	8	14
East						
Maryland	5	24	33	16	4	18

* This question was not asked in South Dakota.

Table 30. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Provide More Funds for Foreign Food Aid to Hungry Nations.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	14	36	18	18	7	7
Indiana	13	30	20	20	6	11
Kansas	15	35	18	14	6	12
Michigan	15	29	18	19	8	11
Minnesota	18	37	18	13	5	8
Nebraska	12	26	19	18	7	18
Ohio	15	31	16	21	9	9
South Dakota	18	43	14	13	3	10
Wisconsin	26	29	13	14	9	10
West						
Idaho	10	35	16	19	10	10
Washington	15	30	19	17	11	8
South						
Alabama	9	19	21	21	9	21
Florida	7	24	20	20	10	18
Oklahoma	11	34	20	17	8	10
South Carolina	13	30	18	16	7	17
Texas	10	30	18	18	12	12
East						
Maryland	10	27	23	14	9	18

Table 31. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Strengthen the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	23	50	15	3	1	9
Indiana	18	51	16	3	1	11
Kansas	18	46	19	2	1	14
Michigan	16	46	20	3	1	13
Minnesota	20	50	17	3	1	10
Nebraska	11	49	17	2	1	20
Ohio	19	51	15	4	1	10
South Dakota ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	24	43	18	2	2	10
West						
Idaho	14	51	20	2	2	12
Washington	22	55	10	3	0	10
South						
Alabama	16	42	20	2	0	20
Florida	14	37	26	2	1	21
Oklahoma	19	55	14	2	0	11
South Carolina	16	47	16	2	1	18
Texas	14	46	22	2	3	13
East						
Maryland	19	40	20	4	1	16

^a This question was not asked in South Dakota.

Table 32. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Expand Farmer-Financed Foreign Market Development Programs.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	22	45	15	9	3	6
Indiana	17	48	17	9	1	9
Kansas	17	43	19	6	3	12
Michigan	15	41	19	8	4	13
Minnesota	16	43	23	7	2	9
Nebraska	15	40	19	7	4	16
Ohio	17	46	13	9	4	10
South Dakota	11	39	23	12	4	11
Wisconsin	16	34	22	11	6	11
West						
Idaho	16	45	18	8	2	11
Washington	24	51	9	6	2	8
South						
Alabama	20	33	20	5	3	19
Florida	18	38	20	5	2	17
Oklahoma	17	47	17	7	2	9
South Carolina	16	40	18	6	2	19
Texas	17	43	16	8	4	12
East						
Maryland	21	37	20	8	2	13

Table 33. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Set Up a Two-Price Plan.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	8	21	27	27	10	7
Indiana	6	23	31	20	10	9
Kansas	11	29	26	16	6	12
Michigan	12	24	27	18	8	11
Minnesota	10	25	28	20	9	9
Nebraska	7	19	32	18	6	18
Ohio	5	22	30	21	12	10
South Dakota	7	27	30	20	6	9
Wisconsin	12	29	20	20	9	10
West						
Idaho	9	24	32	19	7	10
Washington	6	25	22	25	13	9
South						
Alabama	9	21	28	16	8	18
Florida	8	23	29	19	4	16
Oklahoma	12	30	26	16	7	9
South Carolina	8	27	27	16	6	16
Texas	10	28	23	18	10	11
East						
Maryland	6	23	27	18	10	16

Table 34. Responses to the Proposal that We Should Keep Things As They Are and Not Worry about Balancing the Budget.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	3	1	5	44	43	4
Indiana	2	2	6	37	48	6
Kansas	1	1	5	39	46	8
Michigan	2	2	6	40	42	8
Minnesota	1	5	5	32	52	5
Nebraska	4	3	5	36	43	9
Ohio	2	3	3	36	48	8
South Dakota	1	2	4	37	48	8
Wisconsin	2	5	4	39	45	5
West						
Idaho	1	3	2	34	51	9
Washington	1	2	3	40	47	7
South						
Alabama	2	2	6	33	39	18
Florida	2	5	6	31	42	15
Oklahoma	1	2	4	38	46	9
South Carolina	2	2	7	34	40	16
Texas	3	2	4	35	44	12
East						
Maryland	1	2	6	37	42	13

Table 35. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Reduce the Deficit To Reduce Interest Rates.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	34	53	5	2	3	4
Indiana	39	48	6	2	1	4
Kansas	38	45	7	2	2	6
Michigan	36	48	7	3	1	6
Minnesota	41	42	8	2	2	5
Nebraska	54	28	6	2	3	8
Ohio	38	45	5	3	2	7
South Dakota	39	45	6	3	2	6
Wisconsin	36	42	10	6	2	4
West						
Idaho	39	44	4	2	2	8
Washington	38	47	5	1	2	7
South						
Alabama	38	36	10	1	1	15
Florida	33	44	6	3	1	14
Oklahoma	34	49	5	3	2	7
South Carolina	29	46	7	3	2	14
Texas	42	38	5	2	3	10
East						
Maryland	35	44	7	1	1	11

Table 36. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Freeze Federal Expenditures and Raise Taxes.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	8	19	22	31	15	5
Indiana	8	21	20	27	18	6
Kansas	8	24	21	26	11	10
Michigan	5	14	18	32	23	9
Minnesota	8	22	20	29	16	6
Nebraska	12	16	21	25	15	12
Ohio	9	19	21	28	16	8
South Dakota	8	22	21	27	13	9
Wisconsin	8	15	17	28	25	7
West						
Idaho	8	21	15	31	17	9
Washington	8	21	16	30	18	7
South						
Alabama	6	13	19	22	22	18
Florida	8	14	20	29	12	17
Oklahoma	8	21	16	30	14	11
South Carolina	6	18	18	25	17	16
Texas*	4	14	13	30	26	13
East						
Maryland	10	20	14	27	17	12

* In Texas the question of raising taxes was asked separately from that about freezing expenditures. The percentages in the table pertain to raising taxes. When asked whether expenditures should be frozen, 43 percent of the respondents strongly agreed, 36 percent agreed, 5 percent were not sure, 3 percent disagreed, and 2 percent strongly disagreed. Eleven percent did not respond.

Table 37. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Reduce the Deficit To Reduce the Debt Burden on Future Generations.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	35	54	7	1	1	3
Indiana	37	50	6	3	1	4
Kansas	34	50	6	2	1	7
Michigan	30	49	8	3	1	9
Minnesota	35	50	7	3	1	4
Nebraska	45	35	6	3	2	10
Ohio	38	49	5	3	1	5
South Dakota	38	48	4	1	2	7
Wisconsin	33	46	6	8	2	5
West						
Idaho	33	50	5	2	2	8
Washington	36	47	7	3	1	6
South						
Alabama	33	41	9	1	2	14
Florida	35	41	7	2	2	13
Oklahoma	32	53	5	1	2	7
South Carolina	27	47	7	2	1	16
Texas ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
East						
Maryland	35	43	8	1	2	11

^a This question was not asked in Texas.

Table 38. Responses to the Proposal that the U.S. Should Balance the Budget Even If All Government Programs Including Farm Price Supports Must Be Cut.

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	30	34	18	12	4	3
Indiana	34	35	13	11	4	4
Kansas	29	37	15	10	3	5
Michigan	32	31	15	12	5	5
Minnesota	26	38	13	11	7	5
Nebraska	35	22	15	10	6	12
Ohio	41	31	11	9	5	4
South Dakota	27	36	16	13	4	4
Wisconsin	32	32	10	13	7	5
West						
Idaho	40	33	10	9	3	5
Washington	35	37	9	12	3	4
South						
Alabama	34	24	13	8	7	14
Florida	36	27	12	10	5	10
Oklahoma	36	35	11	9	4	5
South Carolina	26	35	14	8	4	13
Texas	24	31	13	15	7	10
East						
Maryland	36	32	9	11	3	9

Table 39. Respondents' Reported Participation in 1983 Farm Programs.

Region and state	Wheat acreage reduction	Wheat PIK	Feed grains acreage reduction	Feed grain PIK	Cotton acreage reduction	Cotton PIK
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	18	10	62	53	...	...
Indiana	25	14	52	43	...	...
Kansas	64	38	39	29	...	...
Michigan	25	20	38	40	...	...
Minnesota ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	26	15	52	49	...	...
Ohio	23	17	58	33	...	...
South Dakota	43	38	64	54	...	...
Wisconsin	1	3	18	19	...	...
West						
Idaho	29	25	19	6	...	...
Washington ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
South						
Alabama ^b	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	8	12	26	32	5	...
Oklahoma	61	56	8	6	8	...
South Carolina	25	22	26	28	5	6
Texas	53	32	49	38	56	45
East						
Maryland	6	5	13	17	...	...

(continued)

^a This question was not asked in Minnesota and Washington.

^b Data were not reported.

Table 39 — continued.

Region and state	Rice acreage reduction	Rice PIK	Peanuts acreage reduction	Peanuts PIK	Tobacco acreage reduction	Tobacco PIK
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indiana	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kansas	...	...	...	...	4	...
Michigan	...	...	...	...	0.1	...
Minnesota ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nebraska	...	...	...	...	0.2	...
Ohio	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Dakota	...	...	...	...	0.2	...
Wisconsin	...	...	...	...	4	...
West						
Idaho	...	...	...	...	...	...
Washington ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
South						
Alabama ^b	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	0.3	...	17	...	13	...
Oklahoma	...	...	3	...	1	...
South Carolina	...	...	1	1	7	1
Texas	3	3	3	...	...	...
East						
Maryland	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table 40. Age of Respondents.

Region and state	Under 35 years	35 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65 years or more	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois.....	18	28	39	14	1
Indiana.....	12	30	40	17	0
Kansas.....	12	25	41	20	2
Michigan.....	11	34	41	12	2
Minnesota.....	16	32	40	12	0
Nebraska.....	13	29	41	16	1
Ohio.....	14	28	40	17	1
South Dakota.....	18	29	38	13	2
Wisconsin.....	16	35	34	13	2
West					
Idaho.....	11	34	40	15	0
Washington.....	13	27	37	20	3
South					
Alabama.....	11	21	39	22	7
Florida.....	11	27	39	23	0
Oklahoma.....	4	19	44	32	1
South Carolina.....	7	23	40	24	6
Texas.....	12	23	38	19	8
East					
Maryland.....	10	24	45	18	2

Table 41. Acres Farmed by Respondents.

Region and state	Less than 339 acres	340 to 649 acres	650 to 1,199 acres	1,200 acres or more	No response	Mean	Median
percentage of respondents						acres	
North Central							
Illinois.....	50	29	16	5	...	458	350
Indiana.....	62	20	10	5	3	368	...
Kansas ^a	...	...	...	...	...	835	525
Michigan.....	65	23	8	4	...	352	193
Minnesota ^b	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nebraska ^b	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohio.....	69	18	9	4	5	372	197
South Dakota.....	16	36	25	23	...	920	600
Wisconsin.....	74	14	5	1	7	...	...
West							
Idaho.....	50	18	14	18	...	693	321
Washington.....	52	11	12	23	2	...	...
South							
Alabama.....	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	140	...
Florida.....	... ^b	... ^b	... ^c	... ^b	... ^b	361	230
Oklahoma.....	40	20	17	16	7	698	425
South Carolina.....	65	15	13	7	...	426	225
Texas.....	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	... ^b	1,100	780
East							
Maryland.....	71	11	7	2	10	228	...

^a Different categories were used in Kansas: 0-199 acres, 26 percent; 200 to 499 acres, 28 percent; 500 to 999 acres, 23 percent; 1,000 to 1,999 acres, 17 percent; 2,000 acres or more, 7 percent of respondents.

^b Data were not available.

Table 42. Percentage of Land Farmed that Respondents Owned.

Region and state	Less than 25 percent	26 to 50 percent	51 to 75 percent	76 to 100 percent	No response	Mean
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						<i>percentage of land</i>
North Central						
Illinois	42	20	9	29	1	48
Indiana	12	19	13	44	13	70
Kansas	25	21	12	42	0	58
Michigan	13	20	17	50	0	71
Minnesota ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nebraska ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohio	22	18	13	47	0	64
South Dakota	19	24	14	43	0	62
Wisconsin	14	7	8	64	7	...
West						
Idaho	17	13	10	50	10	69
Washington	22	8	13	55	2	...
South						
Alabama ^a	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida ^b	...	...	...	...	...	69
Oklahoma	15	17	10	40	18	...
South Carolina	17	24	10	49	0	66
Texas ^b	...	...	...	...	...	47
East						
Maryland	8	8	15	54	15	77

^a Data were not available.

^b No data except mean were available.

Table 43. Respondents' Annual Gross Sales in Recent Years.

Region and state	\$40,000 or less	\$40,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 or more	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>				
North Central				
Illinois	30	56	11	3
Indiana	50	36	12	2
Kansas	45	43	9	4
Michigan	40	45	12	3
Minnesota	33	50	14	4
Nebraska	34	53	10	3
Ohio	49	38	8	6
South Dakota	34	53	8	5
Wisconsin	35	50	8	7
West				
Idaho	37	44	15	4
Washington	37	36	21	6
South				
Alabama	60	17	10	14
Florida	54	25	12	9
Oklahoma	52	38	7	3
South Carolina	53	24	13	10
Texas	25	45	19	11
East				
Maryland	55	29	10	6

Table 44. Respondents' Most Important Source of 1983 Farm Income.

Region and state	Grain	Hogs, beef cattle	Mixed grain and livestock	Dairy	Other	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	61	7	16	3	4	8
Indiana	46	14	29	6	4	1
Kansas	34	12	45	4	3	2
Michigan	29	11	14	29	12	5
Minnesota	30	16	26	18	7	2
Nebraska	37	20	35	3	3	2
Ohio	48	15	8	13	10	6
South Dakota ^a	28	36	37	11	5	...
Wisconsin	8	7	9	58	12	7
West						
Idaho	44	13	25	10	6	2
Washington	48	8	1	14	24	5
South						
Alabama ^b	...	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	18	18	21	12	23	8
Oklahoma	27	19	25	12	7	10
South Carolina	26	23	11	8	13	18
Texas	31	5	10	0	29	25
East						
Maryland	24	10	13	12	33	8

^a Because some respondents checked more than one income source, the total of the categories is more than 100 percent.

^b Data were not available.

Table 45. Amount of Formal Education Completed by Respondents.

Region and state	Grade school	Some high school	Graduated from high school	Some college or technical school	Graduated from college	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	10	8	42	24	15	1
Indiana	7	9	46	22	15	1
Kansas	9	6	40	25	18	2
Michigan	9	13	39	24	13	2
Minnesota	13	9	38	24	14	2
Nebraska	10	6	44	28	11	1
Ohio	6	11	49	17	16	1
South Dakota	16	10	37	20	15	3
Wisconsin	17	8	37	23	12	2
West						
Idaho	6	9	30	32	22	1
Washington	1	4	29	33	28	5
South						
Alabama	12	11	28	20	22	8
Florida	10	9	27	26	24	4
Oklahoma	7	9	27	26	31	...
South Carolina	6	10	28	19	30	7
Texas	5	11	27	22	26	9
East						
Maryland	6	18	34	14	26	3

Table 46. Percentage of Respondents' Family Income Derived from Off-Farm Employment or Investments.

Region and state	0 to 24 percent	25 to 49 percent	50 to 74 percent	75 to 100 percent	No response
<i>percentage of respondents</i>					
North Central					
Illinois.....	51	8	10	11	19
Indiana.....	37	12	13	20	19
Kansas.....	46	11	13	13	18
Michigan.....	42	12	11	13	23
Minnesota.....	54	8	8	11	18
Nebraska.....	45	13	10	6	27
Ohio.....	43	9	16	21	12
South Dakota.....	60	9	8	3	20
Wisconsin.....	51	10	11	11	18
West					
Idaho.....	58	11	7	10	14
Washington.....	51	7	9	13	20
South					
Alabama.....	33	8	13	25	21
Florida.....	31	9	12	25	22
Oklahoma*					
South Carolina.....	36	8	14	25	16
Texas.....	54	9	8	9	20
East					
Maryland.....	36	7	15	25	17

* This question was not asked in Oklahoma.

Table 47. Respondents' Membership in Farm and Commodity Organizations.

Region and state	Farm Bureau	Farmers' Union	Grange	National Farmers' Organization	American Agricultural Movement	Cattlemen's association
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	72.7	4.0	0.6	2.1	0.6	7.4
Indiana.....	63.0	6.0	0.5	2.0	0.4	9.0
Kansas	51.9	13.4	1.9	2.8	3.0	18.2
Michigan.....	57.4	2.7	1.6	5.2	1.6	27.0
Minnesota.....	26.0	24.0	1.0	4.0	0.0	8.0
Nebraska.....	21.0	17.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	13.0
Ohio	59.0	8.0	10.0	3.0	0.0	8.0
South Dakota	16.7	31.0	1.0	5.4	1.9	14.8
Wisconsin.....	26.4	12.4	0.0	6.8	0.4	4.0
West						
Idaho	30.0	3.0	8.0	4.0	0.9	21.0
Washington	17.0	3.0	39.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
South						
Alabama	65.0	...	...	...	...	46.0
Florida	59.5	0.0	0.3	1.4	3.5	29.3
Oklahoma.....	42.0	32.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	40.0
South Carolina.....	60.0	0.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	22.0
Texas.....	58.0	15.5	...	1.7	5.4	13.5
East						
Maryland	58.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	6.0

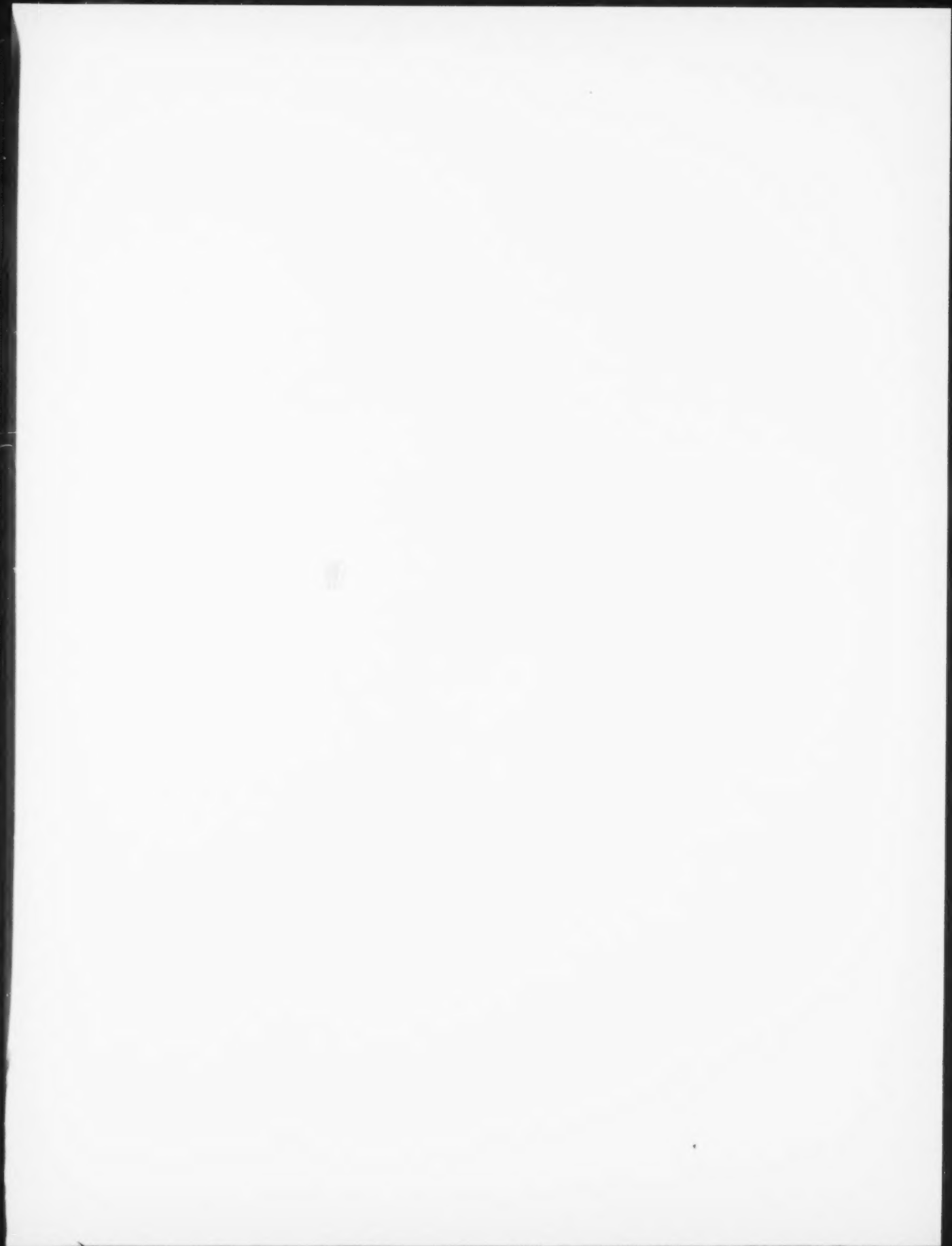
(continued)

* Less than 2 percent.

Table 47 — continued.

Region and state	Pork producers	Milk producers	Corn growers	Wheat producers	Soybean association	Labor union
<i>percentage of respondents</i>						
North Central						
Illinois	13.1	3.6	18.4	0.8	27.7	6.5
Indiana.....	15.0	5.0	6.0	0.5	8.0	10.0
Kansas	5.3	4.4	2.0	16.4	3.1	3.2
Michigan.....	8.4	27.0	3.6	0.9	7.9	7.9
Minnesota.....	13.0	16.0	11.0	10.0	19.0	3.0
Nebraska.....	14.0	2.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	2.0
Ohio	10.0	12.0	5.0	2.0	10.0	8.0
South Dakota	17.5	8.3	2.9	10.8	3.1	0.8
Wisconsin.....	2.8	34.0	2.0	0.0	0.8	6.8
West						
Idaho	1.0	11.0	...	26.0	0.4	2.0
Washington	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	3.0
South						
Alabama*.....	10.0	...	...	...	13.0	8.0
Florida	4.2	0.3	5.9	1.7	11.8	3.1
Oklahoma.....	1.0	2.0	0	34.0	2.0	3.0
South Carolina.....	4.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	24.0	2.0
Texas.....	1.4	...	7.8	18.0	6.2	0.6
East						
Maryland	4.0	13.0	5.0	0	11.0	3.0

* Eleven percent reported membership in the peanut growers' organization.



Questionnaire

QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURE -- TELL US HOW YOU FEEL

1. What should be the policy toward production and price supports after 1985? (Check one.)
 - ☐ keep present voluntary programs with minor revisions.
 - ☐ have a mandatory set aside and price support program in years of excess supply with all producers required to participate if approved in a farmer referendum.
 - ☐ re-establish acreage allotments and marketing quotas for each farm as a basis for price supports.
 - ☐ eliminate set aside, price support, and government storage programs.
 - ☐ undecided
 - ☐ other _____
- 2a. Should target prices and deficiency payments be continued in the 1985 farm bill?
 - ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not sure
- b. If continued, where should target prices be set compared with 1984? (\$3.03 for corn; \$4.45 for wheat)
 - ☐ higher ☐ about the same ☐ lower ☐ no opinion
3. Should payments for acreage diversion be continued in future programs?
 - ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not sure
- 4a. Should a farmer-owned grain reserve be continued?
 - ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not sure
- b. If a grain reserve is continued, which policy below would you prefer:
 - ☐ no limit on size of reserve.
 - ☐ let the Secretary of Agriculture set the limit on the amount.
 - ☐ set a limit based on a percent of the previous year's use.
 - ☐ not sure
5. Loan rates for all price supported commodities should be based on a percent of the average market price for the past 3-5 years.
 - ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ not sure ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree
6. The payment-in-kind program should be used again if large stocks reappear.
 - ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ not sure ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree
- 7a. To help achieve national and state soil erosion control goals, each farmer should be required to follow recommended soil conservation measures for his farm to qualify for price and income support programs.
 - ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ not sure ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree
- b. How should federal government funds for soil conservation programs be distributed?
 - ☐ give funds to all states in proportion to number of farms
 - ☐ give more funds to those states with the most severe erosion problems
 - ☐ not sure
 - ☐ other _____

8. The Farmers Home Administration was established to provide credit to farmers who could not get credit from other sources. Which credit policy should it follow with present borrowers? (Check one.)
- ☐ continue the present policy of not foreclosing unless all repayment efforts have failed.
- ☐ provide a moratorium on all foreclosures to keep distressed borrowers operating until the economy improves.
- ☐ provide a moratorium on foreclosures only for selected young "deserving" farmers.
- ☐ set a stricter policy on delinquent loans and increase the number of foreclosures.
- ☐ other _____
9. Which government policy would you prefer to deal with farm production risks from natural disasters? (Check one.)
- ☐ continue present all risk crop insurance where producers pay about 70 percent and government pays about 30 percent of the cost.
- ☐ return to disaster payments where government pays all the cost.
- ☐ eliminate all disaster payments and Federal Crop Insurance programs.
- ☐ not sure
- ☐ other _____
10. Check below your opinions about the Federal Crop Insurance program: (Check one on each line.)
- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. ☐ a good buy | ☐ expensive | ☐ no opinion |
| b. ☐ adequate coverage | ☐ inadequate coverage | ☐ no opinion |
| c. ☐ easy to understand | ☐ complicated | ☐ no opinion |
11. Future farm programs should be changed to give most price and income support benefit to small and medium size farms with gross annual sales under \$40,000.
- ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ not sure ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree
12. If milk production is excessive in 1985, payments for production cut-back by dairy farmers should be continued.
- ☐ strongly agree ☐ agree ☐ not sure ☐ disagree ☐ strongly disagree
13. By the end of 1985, how do you expect the number of milk cows on your farm to compare with the beginning of 1984:
- ☐ do not have any dairy cows on my farm ☐ more ☐ less ☐ about the same
14. If major changes were required in funding government programs, which would you favor?
- ☐ a low "safety net" loan and target price program.
- ☐ replace commodity programs with a farm income insurance plan with costs shared by farmers and government.
- ☐ other _____
15. The present limit on direct payments to each farmer is \$50,000 per year. What recommendation would you make for the future?
- ☐ increase the limit
- ☐ make no change
- ☐ decrease the limit
- ☐ eliminate the limit completely

16. Who should make the major farm commodity policy decisions? (Check only one.)

- ☐ continue the present system with Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture.
☐ have the President appoint an independent board or commission operating under Congressional guidelines with farmers, agribusiness and consumers represented.
☐ let producers organize, control and finance their own supply management program without government involvement.
☐ no opinion
☐ other _____

17. To increase export sales, the United States should: (Check your opinion on each proposal.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. match export subsidies of its competitors.					
b. encourage lower trade barriers by major importers.					
c. lower U.S. support prices.					
d. establish a marketing board (such as the Canadian Wheat Board).					
e. promote bilateral trade agreements with minimum purchases and export guarantees.					
f. join an export cartel with other major exporters.					
g. provide more funds for food aid to hungry nations.					
h. strengthen the General Agreement on Tariffs on Trade to facilitate more free trade.					
i. expand farmer financed foreign market development programs.					
j. set up a two price plan with a higher price for commodities used in the domestic market and let exports sell at the world market price.					

18. Expenditures on food stamps have been around \$12 billion per year. What would you recommend?

- ☐ increase this amount ☐ decrease ☐ keep about the same
☐ no opinion ☐ eliminate completely

19. Federal deficits have been running \$100 to \$200 billion per year. (Check your opinion on each proposal.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. We should keep things as they are and not worry about balancing the budget.					
b. We should reduce the deficit in order to reduce interest rates for borrowers.					
c. Freeze present federal expenditures and raise taxes.					
d. We should reduce the deficit to reduce the debt burden on future generations.					
e. The federal budget should be balanced even if it means a substantial cut in all government programs including farm price and income supports.					

20. To help analyze your answers, we would like to know a little about you and your interests:

- a. Check below the price and income support programs that you participated in during 1983:

	Wheat	Feed Grains	Cotton	Rice	Peanuts	Tobacco
Acreage Reduction	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Payment-In-Kind	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- b. Your age: (Please check)

_____ under 35 _____ 35-49 _____ 50-64 _____ 65 or over

- c. Number of acres farmed (including government idled acres) in 1983. _____

- d. Percent of land owned that you farm. _____

- e. Approximate annual gross sales from your farm in recent years:

_____ \$40,000 or less _____ \$40,000-\$199,999 _____ \$200,000 and over

- f. Your most important source of farm income in 1983:

_____ grain _____ hogs, beef cattle _____ dairy _____ mixed grain and livestock
_____ other _____

- g. What was the last year of school you completed?

_____ grade school _____ some high school _____ high school graduate
_____ some college or technical school _____ graduated from college

- h. If you or members of your family were employed off the farm, what percent of your total farm family income in 1983 came from off-farm employment and investments?

_____ 0-24% _____ 25-49% _____ 50-74% _____ 75-100%

- i. Please check your membership in these organizations in 1983:

_____ Farm Bureau	_____ Corn Growers
_____ Farmers Union	_____ Soybean Association
_____ Grange	_____ Wheat Producers
_____ National Farmers Organization	_____ Labor Union
_____ American Agricultural Movement	
_____ Cattlemen's Association	
_____ Pork Producers	
_____ Milk Producers	

Thank you for answering these questions. All your individual responses will be kept confidential. You need not sign your name. You are welcome to make any comments on the bottom of this page or on a separate sheet if you want to write more. Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. It requires no postage.

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